

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 054576  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON/FMLC  
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE  
EA/VLC:FZBROWN  
EA:ROAKLEY (DRAFT)  
S/S-O:JTHYDEN

-----099084 030841Z /17

R 030228Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054576

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, EAGR, SOCI, LA, US

SUBJECT: FOOD AID FOR LAOS: THE NEED

REF: 1) STATE 37035; 2) VIENTIANE 220

AS NOTED REF 1, DEPARTMENT IS STILL CONSIDERING QUESTION OF  
PROVISION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE TO LAOS AND IS CONSULTING WITH  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS ON THIS ISSUE. IT  
WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN OUR CONSULTATIONS IF EMBASSY COULD  
PROVIDE US WITH ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ANSWER FOLLOW-  
ING QUESTIONS ON THE EXTENT OF THE NEED IN LAOS:

A) LAO FOREIGN MINISTER'S NOTE OF JANUARY 4 STATES SHORTAGE  
OF FOOD WOULD BE ALMOST TOTAL FROM MARCH UNTIL OCTOBER OF  
THIS YEAR. HAS THIS SITUATION CHANGED?

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B) IS THERE OBSERVABLE EVIDENCE OF SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES ON  
LOCAL MARKETS? OF FAMINE OR MALNUTRITION? ARE LAO SOURCES,  
DIPLOMATS OR OTHER FOREIGN SOURCES WITH GREATER ACCESS TO  
INFORMATION (DIRECT OR INDIRECT) FROM COUNTRYSIDE ABLE TO  
PROVIDE EMBASSY SUCH EVIDENCE?

C) WE UNDERSTOOD LAO HAD RECEIVED COMMITMENTS OF SOME

50,000 TONS OF FOODSTUFFS (RICE AND WHEAT) IN AID. HAS ANY

OF THIS FOOD ARRIVED? IS IT EXPECTED SOON? DO YOU SENSE  
LPDR IS GEARING UP IN ANY WAY TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE  
THIS AID?

D) DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE RECENT INFORMATION ON WHAT CHINA,  
SRV AND USSR ARE DOING FOR LAOS, EITHER IN FOOD AID OR  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT?

E) HAVE OTHER BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL COMMITMENTS BEEN  
RECEIVED BY THE LAO?

F) COUNTRIES LIKE WEST GERMANY AND JAPAN HAVE FAIRLY  
SIZABLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN LAOS. WILL THEY BE CONTRI-  
BUTING TO MAKE UP CURRENT FOOD SHORTAGE? ARE THE FRENCH  
PLANNING TO PROVIDE ANY FOOD ASSISTANCE? (WE WILL ALSO  
CHECK THESE COUNTRIES ON THIS END).

G) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE LAO ARE BUYING RICE OR OTHER  
FOOD STAPLES?

H) DOES THE UN SYSTEM HAVE ANY UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE  
SITUATION IN THE MOST AFFECTED PROVINCES? HAVE THE LAO  
BECOME ANY MORE FORTHCOMING ON DOCUMENTING THEIR NEEDS?

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I) TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAVE ANY JOURNALISTS TRAVELLED RE-  
CENTLY IN MOST AFFECTED AREAS? ARE LAO MAKING ANY EFFORT  
TO "GO PUBLIC" ABOUT EXTENT OF FOOD SHORTAGE AND NEED FOR  
HELP?  
CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOOD ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE054576  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JRJOHNSON/FMLC  
**Enclosure:** HANDLING RESTRICTION REMOVED PER S/S-I MEMO DATED 2/2/79  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 jun 2005  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3122702  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOOD AID FOR LAOS: THE NEED  
**TAGS:** EAID, EAGR, SOCI, LA, US  
**To:** VIENTIANE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c88524b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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